

REMARKS

Claims 1-23 are pending in the application. Claims 1-3, 9, 11-14, 20, 22 and 23 stand rejected. Claims 4-8, 10, 15-19, and 21 stand objected to.

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration in view of the foregoing amendments and the remarks hereinbelow.

Status of Claims

Claims 1-3, 9, 11-14, 20, 22 and 23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Torres et al. (US 6,738,075) and Abram et al. (US 6,462,778). Claims 4-8, 10, 15-19, and 21 stand objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 4 and 15 have been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 1, 10, 12, and 21 have been cancelled. Claims 2, 3, 9 and 11 have been amended and now depend upon claim 4, claims 13, 14, 22 and 23 have been amended and now depend upon claim 15. New independent claim 24 has been introduced.

It is respectfully submitted, therefore, that in view of the above amendments and remarks, that this application is now in condition for allowance, prompt notice of which is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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